

REMARKS

This is a full and complete response to the Final Office Action, dated April 13, 2011. In the aforementioned Final Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1, 2, and 4-20 are pending, that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 11-16, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Henrion (U.S. Patent 5,461,615), that claim 8 is allowed, and that claims 7, 10, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Assignee has amended claims 1, 9, and 15, and cancelled claims 7, 10-14, and 16-19 without prejudice. Claims 3 and 21 were previously cancelled. No new matter has been added.

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following remarks, it is submitted that the claims pending in the application are novel and nonobvious. It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. By this response, reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Assignee thanks the Examiner for allowing claim 8. However, Assignee points out that this claim merely sets forth examples of allowable subject matter and that other claims supported by the disclosure of this application, including the remaining pending claims, are also allowable.

The Examiner indicated that claims 7, 10, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Assignee thanks the Examiner for noting the allowable claims. Assignee asserts, however, that allowable subject matter in this application is not limited to the subject matter of the claims deemed allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 7, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the features of claim 10, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the features of claims 16 and 17, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 11-16, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Henrion (U.S. Patent 5,461,615). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 by asserting that Henrion discloses a method comprising the elements recited in claim 1. Assignee takes no position at this time regarding whether the Examiner's rejection is appropriate or not. Further, as the Examiner indicates on page 5 of the Office Action mailed April 13, 2011 (*Allowable Subject Matter*), claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of claim 1. As discussed above, Assignee has rewritten claim 1 to include features of claim 7. Accordingly, Assignee requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 4-6, and 20 under 35 USC 102(b).

The Examiner rejects claim 9 by asserting that Henrion discloses a method comprising the elements recited in claim 9. Assignee takes no position at this time regarding whether the Examiner's rejection is appropriate or not. Further, as the Examiner indicates on page 5 of the Office Action (*Allowable Subject Matter*), claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of claim 9. As discussed above, Assignee has rewritten claim 9 to include features of claim 10. Accordingly, Assignee requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 102(b).

The Examiner rejects claim 15 by asserting that Henrion discloses a method comprising the elements recited in claim 15. Assignee takes no position at this time regarding whether the Examiner's rejection is appropriate or not. Further, as the Examiner indicates on page 5 of the Office Action (*Allowable Subject Matter*), claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of claims 15 and 16. As discussed above, Assignee has rewritten claim 15 to include

features of claims 16 and 17. Accordingly, Assignee requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 102(b).

As noted above, Assignee has cancelled claims 11-16 and 18-19.

It is noted that claimed subject matter may be patentably distinguished from the applied document for additional reasons; however, the foregoing is believed to be sufficient to overcome the Examiner's rejections discussed above.

Further, it is noted that the Assignee's failure to comment directly upon any positions asserted by the Examiner in the office action does not indicate agreement or acquiescence with those asserted positions. Rather, it is believed that the foregoing remarks render moot positions not commented upon directly. Accordingly, Assignee reserves the right to pursue additional claims that may be broader in scope than the pending claims in a filing that claims priority to this patent application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Brian D. Wichner at (503) 439-6500 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

In the event there are any errors with respect to the fees for this response or any other papers related to this response, the Director is hereby given permission to charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-3130.

Respectfully submitted,

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